

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Vehicle-Killed Wildlife Salvage Permit

The 2013 Legislature passed a bill that allows for the salvage of deer, elk, moose, and antelope killed as a result of a collision with a motor vehicle.

The bill allows a permit to be issued for the salvage of ONLY deer, elk, moose and antelope.

- Permits are available at no cost, either through law enforcement officers on the scene of collisions or online through this web page.

Some important information on the salvage permit

- To possess salvaged wildlife a person must obtain a salvage permit. A person has 24 hours to apply for and get a salvage permit.
- If a person is involved in a vehicle-animal collision, the Montana Highway Patrol and some other law enforcement officers responding to the collision will have the ability to process a permit on site. If not, a person must apply for a permit online themselves. This is accomplished through this web page.
- A person may pick up an animal that he/she did not hit. The process is the same and he/she must obtain a salvage permit through this web page.
- Anyone who salvages a road-killed deer, elk, moose, or antelope will be required to remove the entire animal from where it is found. Parts or viscera cannot be left at the site. To do so is a violation of state law and would encourage other wildlife to scavenge in a place that would put them at risk of also being hit.

Applying for a permit

- A permit cannot be issued without a person agreeing to the Affirmation on the following page. Be sure to read the *Conditions for the Salvage and Possession of Vehicle Killed Wildlife* thoroughly and completely before going on to the permit application page. It constitutes a legal document similar to that which is signed when a person buys a hunting or fishing license. A law enforcement officer may require inspection of the animal, parts, meat and may request the permittee take the officer to the physical site where the animal was picked up.
- Be sure to fill out the application fully. The system will not allow you to print a permit that does not have complete information.
- Once the application has been made, go to the "PRINT PERMIT" box and click. When the permit is printed, be sure to keep it as it is the legal document that allows possession of the salvaged animal.

Click the link below to read the *Conditions for the Salvage and Possession of Vehicle Killed Wildlife* and apply for your permit.



ATTENTION:

The salvage permit system is not designed to operate on mobile devices. Do NOT attempt to apply for a permit on any mobile device.

[Go to Permit Application](#)

HB 351
Kropp
2

21/7/12
22/7/12
23/7/12

APPENDIX A

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Click the link below to read the *Conditions for the Salvage and Possession of Vehicle Killed Wildlife* and apply for your permit

Go to Permit Application

APPENDIX B

Conditions for the Salvage and Possession of Vehicle-killed Wildlife

- A person must acquire a permit to salvage and possess wildlife killed in vehicular collisions. The permit must be signed by the applicant to be valid and must remain in their possession.
- A person must obtain a permit within 24 hours of the time they take an animal into their possession. Vehicle killed animals may not be salvaged or possessed without the permit.
- A person may use a salvage permit to possess an animal killed only by vehicular collision. The permit does not include other mortalities.
- Road killed animals may not be tagged and possessed with carcass tags issued for the purpose of hunting.
- Only white-tailed deer, mule deer, antelope, elk and moose may be salvaged.
- A person with a permit may possess all parts of an animal including meat, hide, hoofs, horns and antlers.
- Any person who is picking up an animal to be salvaged must comply with all highway rules and regulations while removing the animal. Vehicles shall be parked off the roadway and out of the line of traffic. The permittee acknowledges that collecting vehicle-killed animals on state highways is inherently dangerous and is undertaken at the permittee's own risk.
- A person may not kill an injured or wounded animal that they encounter for the purpose of salvage. A law enforcement officer may, however, when on the scene of a collision, kill an animal injured in the collision and that animal may be taken for salvage.
- Any salvaged animals must be removed in its entirety from the roadway by the permittee. The animal may be field dressed before it leaves the area but entrails or any other parts of the animal carcass must be removed from site to prevent attracting scavengers and predators.
- Meat rendered from salvaged animals must be used for human consumption. It may not be used for bait or other purposes.
- Meat rendered from salvaged animals may not be sold.
- Any meat that is unfit for human consumption or unusable animal parts must be disposed of at a legal disposal site. It is unlawful to dispose of animal carcasses or parts in or upon any highway, road, street, or alley or upon public property. It is also illegal to dispose carcasses or parts within 200 yards of a public highway, road street or alley or public property (75-10-212MCA).
- Montana FWP makes no guarantee as to the fitness for consumption of wild animal meat collected under a salvage permit. Persons salvaging and consuming this meat do so at their own risk.
- FWP reserves the right to inspect any animal taken under a salvage permit as well as the site at which the salvaged animal was found and removed.
- By policy of the organization, Montana Food Bank Network does not accept donations of road-killed game.
- By agreeing to these terms you are affirming that all statements contained in the permit application are true and correct. If you make to any false statement in the application you may be held criminally liable. (87-6-302, 303, and 304 MCA)

You must agree to these conditions in order to continue with the process and obtain a permit. Click on box below to move on to permit application form.

Agree Cancel

APPENDIX C

Wildlife Salvage Permit Application

* Indicates required fields that must be filled out to process permit.

Applicant information

First name*


Last name*

Street address*


City*

State*

Zip code * 

Date of Birth

FWP ALS # (If known) 

Phone number

Entering on behalf of a Law Enforcement Agency

☐

Animal Information

Provide information about the animal that you salvaged.

Animal Species*

Select a species ▼

Animal sex/age*

Select sex/age ▼

If antlered, number of tines 🌐

Date animal was taken into possession*

mm/dd/yyyy

Time animal was taken into possession*

hh:mm

AM ▼

Other information


Enter other pertinent information here (optional)

Location Information

Provide information about where you found the animal.

Nearest Town

County

--Select One-- 

Latitude

You may enter the lat/long here or click on the location on the map below.

Longitude

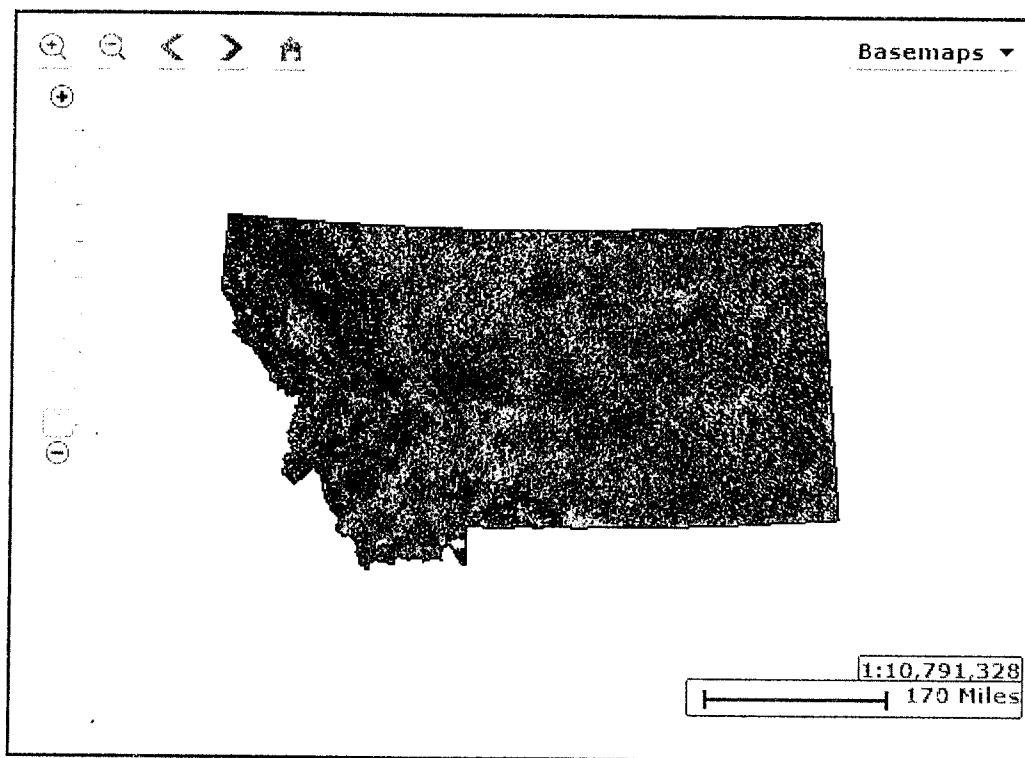
By Map Location or Address

By Mile Marker

By Coordinates

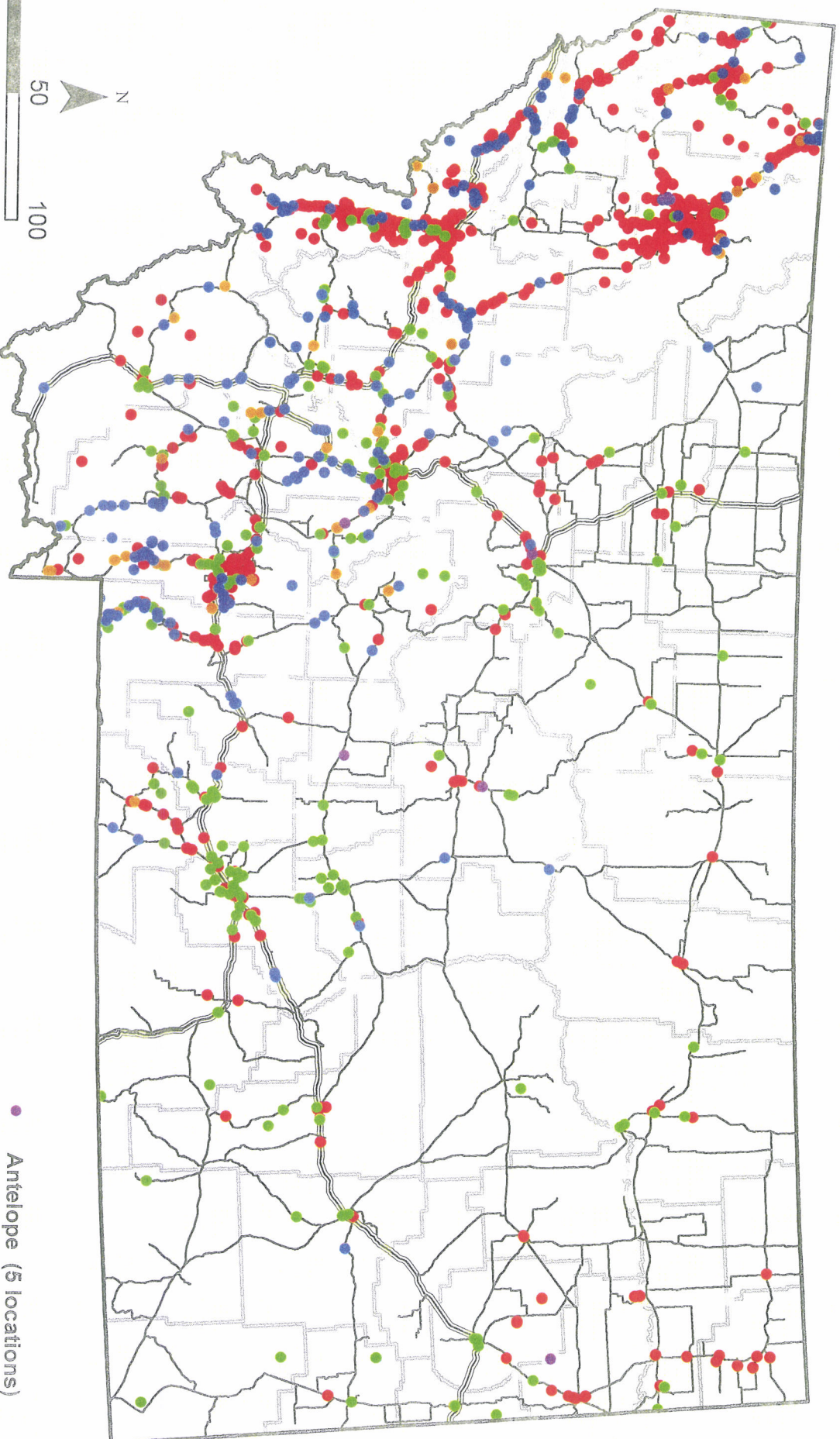
Street Address or Place Name

Locate



Get Permit


Road Salvage Locations 11/1/2013 to 2/4/2015



Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks

Kropp, Jim

To: Kropp, Jim
Subject: FW: [JIRA] (LEGIS-21) HB 351 Salvage permit
Attachments: Legis 21 salvagePermitData 2014.xlsx

Legislative Requests /  LEGIS-21

HB 351 Salvage permit

Modified first spreadsheet to only include 2014 permits. sorted by retrieval type. There are 840 found by roadway, 367 hit by vehicle. The total for 2014 = 1207.

Change By: Kathryn Reilly

Attachment: Legis 21 salvagePermitData 2014.xlsx

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Salvage incident in Trout Creek

Story Comments

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Posted: Wednesday, February 11 2015 4:10 pm

Alex Violo/Valley Press | 0 comments

TROUT CREEK – A calf elk and gut piles were discovered near Old Highway 200 in Trout Creek last week.

Following an investigation by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Game Warden for Sanders County Troy Hinck, the incident was deemed not to have been an occurrence of poaching, but rather a failed attempt to salvage meat after the elk was killed by a collision with a motor vehicle.



According to Hinck, the trouble was not that the animal or animals had been salvaged; the issue was that the carcasses had been improperly dumped and the party, which had salvaged the meat, had not properly complied with FWP regulations.

The game warden said from information available at the scene it looked as if an attempt had been made to salvage the calf's meat, but the meat had been deemed unsuitable for harvesting, by whatever party was involved with the incident.

Hinck stated if someone recovers animal meat they need to go on the FWP website and fill out a salvage permit, which helps to tell wildlife officials what animal was killed and where the incident occurred.

Hinck added there was nothing wrong with salvaging meat if it is done correctly and stressed it was important to not waste resources dedicated towards preventing poaching throughout northwest Montana.

"I am not here to get guys who are trying to do something right. I don't want to waste my time investigating something that wasn't poaching," Hinck said.

More about Trout Creek

- ARTICLE: Activists monitor wolf hunt in Trout Creek
- ARTICLE: Theatre visits Trout Creek
- ARTICLE: Deer killed and wasted in Trout Creek
- ARTICLE: Big turnout for RMEF banquet

More about Elk

- ARTICLE: Local hunter takes huge elk in Mineral County
- ARTICLE: Outdoor enthusiast stays active
- ARTICLE: A mild winter may be good for elk and deer herds
- ARTICLE: Harvest numbers keep rising

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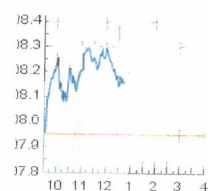
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